

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## POLICY DESCRIPTION FORM

Department/Group: District Attorney/Law & Justice Budget Code: AAA DAT  
 Title: Identity Theft Crime Unit

PRIORITY: Rank 3 of 3 FUNDING: Full Year ☒ Other ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ Months

ITEM STATUS: Restoration ☐ Program Change ☒ Workload ☐

OPERATIONAL AND/OR FISCAL IMPACT: Clearly explain the impact on services (attach additional pages if required)

Fund staff devoted exclusively to investigation and prosecution of identity theft crimes in San Bernardino County (see attached).

	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>Ongoing 2004-05</u>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Salaries & Benefits (attach additional page if required)	<u>\$ 234,961</u>	<u>\$ 246,709</u>

<b>CLASSIFICATIONS</b>		
<u>Budgeted Staff</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>1.0</u>	<u>Deputy District Attorney</u>	<u>139,380</u>
<u>1.0</u>	<u>DA Investigator I</u>	<u>95,581</u>
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Services & Supplies	<u>28,877</u>	<u>25,412</u>
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Other (specify) _____	_____	_____
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Equipment	_____	_____
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<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>One Vehicle for Investigator</u>	<u>25,000</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Reimbursements (specify) _____	_____	_____
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Total:	<u>\$ 288,838</u>	<u>\$ 272,121</u>
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REVENUE (specify source)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Total:	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
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LOCAL COST	<u>\$ 288,838</u>	<u>\$ 272,121</u>
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## **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

### **Policy Item #3 of 3 – Identity Theft Crime Unit**

The explosion of Internet usage and the availability of on-line public records coupled with the ease of credit card access, has contributed greatly to dramatic increases in the crime of identity theft. Cases range from a peace officer who had a criminal he was investigating assume his identity and file bankruptcy in the name of the officer to a local man who assumed the identity of a victim of the World Trade Center Attack in order to facilitate the theft of tens of thousands of dollars. One national estimate is that one in three Americans will be the victim of identity theft during their lifetime. The cost of credit card fraud alone is estimated at over one billion dollars annually.

The theft of an individual's identity generates incredible psychological trauma, as the damage left in the wake of such a theft often takes years to clean up. Falsified credit cards, fraudulently obtained loans and liens against personal property take years to unravel. Suspects often go unidentified, as it takes highly skilled investigators, competent in high technology criminal investigation methods, to track, locate and identify the suspects. Collecting evidence to prove the crime sufficiently in court is yet another difficult task investigators must undertake. Lastly, highly skilled prosecutors are necessary to both understand the highly complex cases and successfully prosecute these nefarious criminals in court in order to prevent the victimization of additional citizens.

Many con artists have made the transition to high technology criminal. Training and equipment to investigate and prosecute these criminals is expensive. Because of the level of expertise necessary, a long-term commitment is required of investigative and prosecutorial staff members in order to combat this ever-increasing crime.